

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Priority

In the Official Action, the Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim for priority, but states that Applicants had not filed a certified copy of the priority document application as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(b). It is respectfully submitted that Applicants filed a Submission of Priority Document along with a certified copy of the priority document on June 23, 2004. A copy of the Submission of Priority Document and a date-stamped postcard receipt evidencing receipt of same in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are enclosed. Acknowledgment of receipt of the priority document is respectfully solicited.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for the reasons succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets of the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which the legend --PRIOR ART-- has been added to Figures 4a, 4b, and 5. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any informalities, including

those kindly identified by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 8, and 11 through 19 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 11 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Claim Objection

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claim 2 is objected to because of a minor informality kindly noted by the Examiner. In response, Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the grounds of the objection. It is respectfully submitted that the objection has been overcome.

Art Rejections

Claims 1 through 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0074252 (Hirst, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,576 (Sakai, et al.).

Claims 4 through 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst, et al. in view of Sakai, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,549 (Kagawa, et al.).

Claims 7 through 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst, et al. in view of Sakai, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,701,102 (Hasegawa, et al.).

Claims 11 through 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa, et al. in view of Hirst, et al.

Claims 16 through 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa, et al. in view of Hirst, et al. and further in view of Kagawa, et al.

The rationale underlying the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejections

Initially, it is noted that Hirst, et al. is applied as the primary reference against Claim 1 and as a secondary reference against independent Claim 11.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to advance prosecution, Applicants are filing a Submission of Sworn Translation of the foreign patent document from which priority for the present application is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 along with a Declaration in accordance with Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 201.15, Rev. 2, May 2004, pp. 200-91 and 92. By such submissions, the Claim to Priority is perfected.

It is respectfully submitted that Hirst, et al. is removed as prior art to the present application. Accordingly, all of the rejections, which are based either primarily or secondarily on Hirst, et al. are overcome and further comment on the rejections is not necessary.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2 through 10 and 12 through 20 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1 and 11 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own

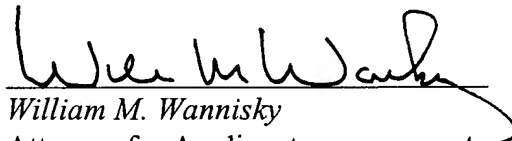
right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2100

WMW\tas